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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/024,162	12/18/2001	Katsumi Toyama	450100-03682	6455
20999	7590	04/24/2006	EXAMINER	
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG 745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL. NEW YORK, NY 10151			PAPE, ZACHARY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2835	

DATE MAILED: 04/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/024,162

Applicant(s)

TOYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Zachary M. Pape

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/14/2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grewe et al. (Des 374,236) in view of Jeong et al. (US 6,681,276).

With respect to claim 1, Grewe et al. teaches the use of a memory card drive comprising: a memory card drive body having a memory interface (Per the title, the device is a memory card reader and player and thus must inherently have a memory interface to transfer the information from the card) and provided with a shape (rectangular) capable of being inserted into a memory card drive slot of a personal computer (As illustrated in Fig 3 of the applicants' invention, a shape capable of being

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inserted into a portable memory card drive slot of a personal computer is rectangular which is the shape of the Grewe et al. invention); a plurality of memory card slots provided in said memory card drive body oriented in a planar array to accept a plurality of memory cards in the same loading orientation; and a plurality of memory cards, detachably accommodated in said memory card slots (As illustrated in Fig 1). Grewe et al. fails to specifically teach that digital information is recorded through the memory interface.

Jeong et al. teaches the use of a memory card player unit which also records (Column 7, Lines 12-14). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the memory card player and recorder of Jeong et al. with the memory card reader and player of Grewe et al. to provide a means of recording information from an electronic device (e.g. computer) to the memory cards of Grewe et al. Providing a means of recording adds versatility to the reader and player of Grewe et al. Having the ability to record to the device as taught by Grewe et al. would further reduce time and money spent on other devices used for the sole purpose of recording information on the memory cards which is not provided by Grewe et al.

With respect to claim 2, Grewe et al. further teaches that the memory card slots are provided in a memory card tray (As illustrated in Fig 5) that is loaded into and unloaded from said memory card drive body. (As illustrated in Fig 1)

With respect to claim 3, Grewe et al. teaches the use of a portable memory card drive comprising: a portable memory card drive body having a memory interface (Per the title, the device is a memory card reader and player and thus must inherently have a

memory interface to transfer the information from the card, additionally the device of Grewe et al. is portable in that it can be moved from one place to another) and provided with a shape capable of being inserted into a portable memory card drive slot of a personal computer (As illustrated in Fig 3 of the applicants' invention, a shape capable of being inserted into a portable memory card drive slot of a personal computer is rectangular which is the shape of the Grewe et al. invention); a plurality of memory card slots provided in said memory card drive body oriented in a planar array to accept a plurality of memory cards in the same loading orientation; and a plurality of memory cards, detachably accommodated in said memory card slots (As illustrated in Fig 1). Grewe et al. fails to specifically teach that digital information is recorded through the memory interface.

Jeong et al. teaches the use of a memory card player unit which also records. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the memory card player and recorder of Jeong et al. with the memory card reader and player of Grewe et al. to provide a means of recording information from an electronic device (e.g. computer) to the memory cards of Grewe et al. Providing a means of recording adds versatility to the reader and player of Grewe et al. Having the ability to record to the device as taught by Grewe et al. would further reduce time and money spent on other devices used for the sole purpose of recording information on the memory cards which is not provided by Grewe et al.

With respect to claim 4, Grewe et al. fails to particularly teach that the portable memory card drive body includes a power supply, however the device of Grewe et al.

must inherently have some type of power supply to supply power to the device so that the device may read and play the information on the memory cards.

With respect to claim 5, Grewe et al. further teaches that the memory card slots are provided in a memory card tray (As illustrated in Fig 5) that is loaded into and unloaded from said memory card drive body. (As illustrated in Fig 1)

With respect to claim 6, Jeong et al. further teaches an opening/closing cover (5) pivotally attached to a portable memory card drive body for movement between an open position (As illustrated in Jeong et al. Fig 3), in which the memory cards are exposed, and a closed position (As illustrated in Jeong et al. Fig 4), in which said opening/closing cover covers the memory cards.

Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grewe et al. (Des 374,236) in view of Jeong et al. (US 6,681,276) and further in view of Wallace et al. (US 5,933,328).

With respect to claim 7, Grewe et al. in view of Jeong et al. teach the claim limitations of 4 above, but fail to teach that the power supply is included in a portable memory card drive body.

Wallace et al. teaches the use of a memory card drive with at least one battery that is included in the portable memory card drive body (Column 5, Lines 30-32). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the battery of Wallace et al. with the memory card recorder, reader, and player of Jeong et al. and Grewe et al. to provide a means of operating the device

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when no power is available. In the event that no direct power was available, the user could still extract data from the memory cards.

With respect to claim 8, Wallace et al. further teaches that the memory card drive has a removable battery pack (Fig 3 element 13; Column 2, Lines 48-49).

With respect to claim 9, Wallace et al. further illustrates that a power supply (13) is at least one battery that is included in a portable holder (defined by the sidewalls of element of 13), detachably attached to the portable memory card drive body (Fig 3 illustrates the device with the battery attached, Figure 4 illustrates the device with the battery unattached).

Alternative Rejection

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Alternatively claims 1-3, 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Le Roux (US 5,563,400) in view of Grewe et al. (US D374,236).

With respect to claim 1, Le Roux teaches a memory card drive comprising: a memory card drive body (1) having a memory interface (3, and 12) and provided with a shape capable of being inserted into a memory card drive slot of a personal computer

(Title); a memory card slot (6) provided in said memory card drive body (As illustrated in Fig 1); and a memory card (7, 8), detachably accommodated in said memory card slots, into and from which digital information is recorded and played back through the memory interface. Le Roux further teaches the conventionality of having more than one card in the drive body (1) but fails to specifically teach several memory card slots provided in the memory card drive body oriented in a planar array to accept a plurality of memory cards in the same loading orientation, nor a plurality of memory cards. Grewe et al. further teaches a plurality of memory card slots and memory cards orientated in a planar array (See Fig 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Grewe et al. with that of Le Roux to provide additional memory card slots and memory cards in one tray to provide additional memory capacity and recording/playback in one drive body.

With respect to claim 2, Le Roux further teaches that the memory card slots are provided in a memory card tray (5) that is loaded into and unloaded from said memory card drive body (As illustrated in Fig 1).

With respect to claim 3, Le Roux teaches a portable memory card drive comprising: a memory card drive body (1) having a memory interface (3, and 12) and provided with a shape capable of being inserted into a memory card drive slot of a personal computer (Title); a memory card slot (6) provided in said memory card drive body (As illustrated in Fig 1); and a memory card (7, 8), detachably accommodated in said memory card slots, into and from which digital information is recorded and played back through the memory interface. Le Roux further teaches the conventionality of

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having more than one card in the drive body (1) but fails to specifically teach several memory card slots provided in the memory card drive body oriented in a planar array to accept a plurality of memory cards in the same loading orientation, nor a plurality of memory cards. Grewe et al. further teaches a plurality of memory card slots and memory cards orientated in a planar array (See Fig 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Grewe et al. with that of Le Roux to provide additional memory card slots and memory cards in one tray to provide additional memory capacity and recording/playback in one drive body.

With respect to claim 5, Le Roux further teaches that the memory card slots are provided in a memory card tray (5) that is loaded into and unloaded from said memory card drive body (As illustrated in Fig 1).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicants' remarks to claims 1 and 3 are not persuasive.

Applicants remark that, Grewe or Jeong either taken individually or in combination does not teach or suggest that the memory card drive body is provided with a shape capable of being inserted into a memory card drive slot of a personal computer, however the examiner respectfully disagrees. As detailed in the action above, both Grewe and Jeong teaches a rectangular shaped body which is consistent with the applicants' specification which clearly discloses in Fig 3 that the shape required to be capable of being inserted into a memory card drive slot is rectangle.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 2001/0004339 further teaches a disk drive body utilizing a plurality of memory cards.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zachary M. Pape whose telephone number is 571-272-2201. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thur. & every other Fri. (8:00am - 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached at 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ZMP


LISA LEA EDMONDS
PRIMARY EXAMINER